Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 07242 120924Z ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /021 W --------120928Z 048938 /13

O 120841Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9647

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: REPORTED HOUSE ARREST OF BISHOP CLAVER

REF: STATE 107467

- 1. ACCORDING KNOWLEDGEABLE CHURCH SOURCES IN MANILA, REPORT OF CLAVER ARREST UNTRUE. EMBOFF RELAYED SUBSTANCE OF NATIONAL CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE ITEM TO JESUIT PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, FATHER KENNETH BOGART. ANOTHER JESUIT FATHER THEN ASKED CARDINAL SIN FOR COMMENT. SIN SAID ITEM WAS NOT TRUE AND FLATLY DENIED THAT CLAVER BEING HELD IN HIS RESIDENCE. FURTHER INQUIRY BY JESUITS REVEAL THAT BISHOP CLAVER LAST SEEN IN CAGAYAN DE ORO ON MAY 10 ENROUTE BACK TO HIS DIOCESE IN MALAYBALAY, BUKIDNON. JESUITS UNABLE AS YET TO CONTACT MALAYBALAY TO CONFIRM THAT CLAVER IS ACTUALLY THERE, BUT WILL LET US KNOW AS SOON AS THEY ARE ABLE TO DO SO.
- 2. OFFICIAL OF PAPAL NUNCIATURE, WHO WAS ASKED FOR CONFIRM-TION, REPLIED THAT STORY WAS "COMPLETELY UNTRUE", AND THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT BISHOP CLAVER NOW BACK IN BUKIDNON. EMBOFF SAID WE WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT THAT SO FAR AS WE KNOW STORY IS GROUNDLESS.
- 3. BOGART CALLED LATER IN AFTERNOON TO SAY THAT REPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH UNDERSECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE BARBERO, GENERAL RAMOS AND ADMIRAL ESPALDON. ALL DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF REPORT AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT THEY SURELY WOULD HAVE HEARD IF ACTION TAKEN AGAINST CLAVER. RAMOS INDICATED, HOWEVER, HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH PC COMMANDER IN BUKIDNON TO CHECK ON CLAVER'S WHEREABOUTS. BOGART SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM LOCAL UPI

MAN WHO HAD QUERY FROM HIS HOME OFFICE ABOUT CLAVER'S POSSIBLE ARREST IN MINDANAO.

- 4. BOGART ALSO NOTED THAT CLAVER RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN TV PROGRAM HIGHLY CRITICAL OF GOP WHICH WAS OR IS ABOUT TO BE BROADCAST IN ENGLAND. THIS HAS HEIGHTENED EXISTING CONCERN THAT HE IS ON BRINK OF SERIOUS TROUBLE.
- 5. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, LOCAL JESUIT ORGANIZATION IS HYPERSENSITIVE TO RUMORS AND REPORTS OF ARRESTS, ETC., AND WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT BOGART WILL LET US KNOW ASAP, IF IT SHOULD TURN OUT THAT CLAVER IS OTHER THAN ALIVE, WELL AND UNDETAINED IN BUKIDNON. NO ONE HERE, INCIDENTALLY, KNOWS WHO COULD BE SOURCE FOR CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE STORY. DOES DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION? IF STORY CUT FROM WHOLE CLOTH, S SEEMS TO BE THE CASE, POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE RULED OUT IT WAS EFFORT BY DISSIDENTS TO EMBARRASS REGIME.

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Message Attributes

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Subject: REPORTED HOUSE ARREST OF BISHOP CLAVER

TAGS: SHUM, RP, (CLAVER)

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